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PATENT

Nucleic Acid Sequence Amplification

Abstract

A method, composition and kit for synthesizing multiple copies of a target nucleic acid sequence auto-catalytically under conditions of substantially constant temperature, ionic strength, and pH are provided in which multiple RNA copies of the target sequence autocatalytically generate additional copies using a mixture of blocked and unblocked primers and/or promoter-primers to initiate DNA and RNA synthesis, preferably with reduced non-specific product formation. The invention is useful for generating copies of a nucleic acid target sequence for purposes that include assays to quantitate specific nucleic acid sequences in clinical, environmental, forensic and similar samples, cloning and generating probes.